

# Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

**May  
2014**

CATEGORY	April 2014	April 2013	YTD 14	YTD 13
DOE INCIDENTS	1	0	2	1
FIRE	38	29	66	60
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS (HAZMAT)	189	209	838	803
OTHER	92	98	336	341
911 SERVICE OUTAGES	6	4	24	6
SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSIONS(SAR)	48	48	206	182
TERRORIST	0	1	0	1
INITIAL WEATHER INCIDENTS	4	9	16	19
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	0	0
TSUNAMI DEBRIS	4	4	9	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>1497</b>	<b>1423</b>
<i>Evidence Search Mission*</i>	<b>5</b>	6	<b>20</b>	23
<i>Additional Weather Alerts*</i>	<b>2</b>	18	<b>229</b>	83

\* Numbers for these categories are not included in the total number of logged incidents

*NOTE: Prior to January 1, 2013 only the initial weather event was counted in the statistics. As the weather severity changed and storm systems crossed the state, new or updated weather related alerts were issued, but the additional alerts issued were recorded under the initial weather event only. Beginning January 1, 2013, all subsequent alerts that are considered to be part of the initiating weather event are recorded as Additional Weather Alerts.*

LEGEND	
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather incidents such as Flooding, High Winds, and Snow
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Wildland Fire incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, including but not limited to Tsunami events, Earthquakes, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threats

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## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On April 1, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continued Phase III - Full Operations, in support of the State Route 530 mudslide event in Oso. State EOC activation level was lowered for this event to Phase II – Enhanced Operations, on April 28.
- On April 1, at 1700 hours an 8.2 magnitude earthquake struck near Chile creating a tsunami. Authorities in the state of Hawaii were placed on alert, but no tsunami watch was issued. A Tsunami Alert was issued for Latin America's Pacific Coast; however there was no impact for the state of Washington by the time the predicted tsunami wave arrived some 12-hours later.
- On April 3, the Alert and Warning Center was notified by 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team of their deployment to the General Administration building in Olympia in response to a "white powder" incident. Test results on the powder were returned negative for dangerous substance.
- On April 3, the Walla Walla Police Department in conjunction with the Washington State Patrol issued an AMBER Alert for an 8 year-old girl believed to have been taken by her mother. The AMBER Alert was cancelled when the Walla Walla police located the mother and daughter together safe and unharmed.
- On April 10, the Washington State Emergency Management Division's Alert and Warning Center received notice of a 911 communication outage affecting the entire state. Technicians were placed into contact with local service providers to determine the source. The outage began just after midnight and lasted approximately eight hours. The cause for the outage remains under investigation. According to the Utilities and Transportation Commission Report, the outage was caused by technical issues in a third party vendor's equipment. Century Link is working on ensuring that this type of outage cannot occur again.
- On April 11, Skamania County requested a technical rope team to help rescue an injured female hiker with a broken ankle one mile north of the town of Carson. A USCG helicopter with a hoist from the Astoria Coast Guard Station was dispatched but requested a technical rope team to get her to a location where she could be hoisted into the helicopter. The injured hiker was rescued by the technical rope team and transported to the hospital by ground because the helicopter was unable to reach the location due to the heavy wooded terrain.
- On April 12, the National Weather Service issued a Freeze Warning for Kittitas, Benton, Yakima, Franklin & Walla Walla Counties effective through April 14.

# Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

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May  
2014

- On April 14, Thurston County opened a search for a missing hiker/motorcyclist in Capitol Forest. A fixed-wing aircraft with FLIR capability was coordinated from Pierce County. Also, search dogs from Pierce and Kitsap counties assisted. The subject was located deceased the following day.
- On April 19, the National Weather Service in Seattle issued a High Surf Advisory for the coast effective through April 21.
- On April 19, the International Emergency Rescue Coordination Center reported a Personal Locator Beacon activation plotting out of the Lena Lake area in Jefferson County. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a boy scout had been critically injured after a log rolled over him. The subject perished before rescuers could reach him. Olympic Mountain Rescue volunteers from Kitsap County were coordinated to assist with recovering the body.
- On April 22, The International Emergency Rescue Coordination Center reported a Personal Locator Beacon activation in the Olympic National Forest in Clallam County. Search and rescue personnel from the United States Forest Service and Clallam County assisted in the search. The individual was located by forest service personnel unharmed in his vehicle stuck in the snow.
- On April 26, Thurston County opened a search for a missing 90 year-old male in the Nisqually area. Search and rescue resources coordinated for Thurston County included a Washington Department of Transportation fixed-wing airplane, King County Sheriff's Office helicopter with FLIR capability, search dogs from Pierce and Grays Harbor Counties, and ground searchers from Grays Harbor, Pierce, and Mason Counties. The search terminated on April 28 without the subject being found.

For the month of April 2014, the SEOO's:

- Issued 9 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Issued 6 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Conducted 740 notifications to state and local agencies for imminent or occurring emergencies.
- Coordinated 35 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations.
- Participated in 19 exercises of which 16 were vessel spill drills.
- Conducted 120 National Warning System Tests (NAWAS) over the State and Federal circuits. NAWAS connects over 1,800 State and Federal jurisdictions and agencies on the Federal circuit and all counties, some agencies and some tribes on the State circuit. NOTE: there are 4 tests a day, testing 66 drops on 2

# Washington State Emergency Operations Officer Monthly Report

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May  
2014

circuits. The number above reflects the 4 tests a day. Previously the number was counting the total number of stations contacted during those tests.

- Conducted 4 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE).
- Conducted 6 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS).
- Conducted 6 Emergency Alert System (EAS) tests. The EAS broadcasts emergency information to the public via television, radio and cell phone mediums.
- Conducted 30 All Hazards Alert Broadcast System (AHAB) Daily Function tests. The AHAB tests functional capability of all coastal and Puget Sound AHAB siren systems.
- Conducted 1 All Hazards Alert Broadcast System (AHAB) Siren test. The AHAB Siren activates coastal and Puget Sound voice and tone sirens during tsunami and other hazardous incidents.
- Conducted 28 Olympic Peninsula Public Safety Alliance Network (OPSCAN) tests. OPSCAN connects public safety organizations throughout the Olympic Peninsula.
- Conducted 2 State Agency Emergency Network (STAEN) tests. STAEN connects state agencies via an 800 MHz radio system.
- Conducted 3 King County 800 MHz Radio System tests. The King County radio 800 MHz system connects the Alert and Warning Center with King County key emergency management and response organizations.